

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please replace all prior versions of the claims with the following listing of the revised claims.

In The Claims:

1-8. (cancelled).

9. (presently presented) An apparatus for electro-polishing a medical implant, comprising:

an anode adapted to contact a surface of said medical implant, thereby establishing an electrical contact between said anode and said medical implant;

a roller operably driven by a motor and contacting said medical implant, said roller thereby being adapted to continuously rotate said medical implant;

a cathode spaced away from said anode;

wherein said electrical contact between said anode and said medical implant continuously changes as an electrical voltage is applied across said anode and said cathode and said roller is rotated by said motor, said medical implant thereby being electro-polished while minimizing the generation of marks on said medical implant at said electrical contact; and

~~The apparatus according to claim 1,~~ wherein said cathode comprises at least two cathode elements, each of said cathode elements defining a loop wherein said loops are spaced apart from each other.

10-13. (cancelled).

14. (presently presented) An apparatus for electro-polishing a medical implant, comprising:

an anode adapted to contact a surface of said medical implant, thereby establishing an electrical contact between said anode and said medical implant;

a roller operably driven by a motor and contacting said medical implant, said roller thereby being adapted to continuously rotate said medical implant;

a cathode spaced away from said anode;

wherein said electrical contact between said anode and said medical implant continuously changes as an electrical voltage is applied across said anode and said cathode and said roller is rotated by said motor, said medical implant thereby being electro-polished while minimizing the generation of marks on said medical implant at said electrical contact; and

~~The apparatus according to claim 1,~~ wherein said anode is attached to a swing arm, said swing arm adapted to lift said anode and medical implant out of an electrolytic bath while leaving said roller and said cathode immersed in said electrolytic bath.

15-22. (cancelled).

23. (presently presented) An apparatus for electro-polishing a stent, comprising:

an anode adapted to contact an inner surface of said stent, thereby establishing an electrical contact between said anode and said stent;

a roller adapted to contact an outer surface of said stent, said roller being made of a non-conductive material;

a motor operably driving said roller, said roller thereby being adapted to continuously rotate said stent;

a cathode spaced away from said anode;

wherein said electrical contact between said anode and said stent continuously changes as an electrical voltage is applied across said anode and said cathode and said roller is rotated by said motor; and

~~The apparatus according to claim 18,~~ wherein said cathode comprises at least two cathode elements, each of said cathode elements defining a loop wherein said loops are spaced apart from each other.

24-27. (cancelled).

28. (presently presented) An apparatus for electro-polishing a stent, comprising:

an anode adapted to contact an inner surface of said stent, thereby establishing an electrical contact between said anode and said stent;

a roller adapted to contact an outer surface of said stent, said roller being made of a non-conductive material;

a motor operably driving said roller, said roller thereby being adapted to continuously rotate said stent;

a cathode spaced away from said anode;

wherein said electrical contact between said anode and said stent continuously changes as an electrical voltage is applied across said anode and said cathode and said roller is rotated by said motor; and

~~The apparatus according to claim 18,~~ wherein said anode is attached to a swing arm, said swing arm adapted to lift said anode and stent out of an electrolytic bath while leaving said roller and said cathode immersed in said electrolytic bath.

29-31. (cancelled).

32. (presently presented) An apparatus for electro-polishing a stent, comprising:

an anode adapted to contact an inner surface of said stent, thereby establishing an electrical contact between said anode and said stent;

a roller adapted to contact an outer surface of said stent, said roller being made of a non-conductive material;

a motor operably driving said roller, said roller thereby being adapted to continuously rotate said stent;

a cathode spaced away from said anode;

wherein said electrical contact between said anode and said stent continuously changes as an electrical voltage is applied across said anode and said cathode and said roller is rotated by said motor; and

~~The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said roller is oriented at an angle between a horizontal orientation and a vertical orientation; and said anode is attached to a swing arm, said swing arm adapted to lift said anode and stent out of an electrolytic bath while leaving said roller and said cathode immersed in said electrolytic bath.~~

33. (presently presented) An apparatus for electro-polishing a stent, comprising:

an anode adapted to contact an inner surface of said stent, thereby establishing an electrical contact between said anode and said stent;

a roller adapted to contact an outer surface of said stent, said roller being made of a non-conductive material;

a motor operably driving said roller, said roller thereby being adapted to continuously rotate said stent;

a cathode spaced away from said anode;

wherein said electrical contact between said anode and said stent continuously changes as an electrical voltage is applied across said anode and said cathode and said roller is rotated by said motor; and

~~The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said anode extends along an entire length of said stent; said anode is a wire with a diameter 75% or less than an inner diameter of said stent; said anode is made from platinum and said cathode is made from a same material as said stent; said roller comprises grooves extending longitudinally thereon, said grooves thereby driving said stent as said roller rotates; said roller is oriented at an angle between a horizontal orientation and a vertical orientation; and said anode is attached to a swing arm, said swing arm adapted to lift said anode and stent out of an electrolytic bath while leaving said roller and said cathode immersed in said electrolytic bath.~~

34-40. (cancelled).